

March 16, 2006

Dear Subacute Care Providers:

The Maryland Health Care Commission (Commission, MHCC) has voted to allow state regulations requiring the Maryland Subacute Care Survey (MSACS) to expire. This decision will be final on April 10, 2006. The MSACS was established by the Commission in March 1995 pursuant to COMAR 10.24.05, Development of Subacute Care Units, and became final effective July 31, 1995. The survey's purpose was to identify and distinguish program and patient characteristics, as well as to improve the Commission's knowledge of and quality of decision-making regarding emerging subacute care services. MHCC will continue to monitor the use of subacute care services in a limited way using secondary data sources and aggregate patient and facility-level data.

Your facility will not be required to submit patient-specific information to the MHCC via the MSACS for services provided in or after January 1, 2006. The last quarterly data submission of resident-specific data for your facility will be for the period from October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005. This submission was due February 15, 2006, or later if you requested an extension. **Please note that this action applies only to the resident-specific quarterly data submissions in the MSACS. The Maryland Long Term Care Survey is not affected by this action and will continue.**

All hospital-based comprehensive care and chronic facilities will continue to complete the Maryland Long-Term Care Survey (MLTCS), which collects facility-level summary data. MHCC will study the utilization of services at hospital-based comprehensive care centers using data collected by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Utilization of services at the chronic hospitals will be captured by adding eight questions, about discharges, to the 2006 MLTCS which will be collected in 2007. **Attachment A contains the questions that will be added to the 2007 survey. I recommend that you begin compiling this data during calendar year 2006.**

The data and software must be destroyed in a manner that is in accordance with HIPAA and the state law. Due to the confidential nature of the information, the data should be rendered impossible to use. For your protection, hard copies should be shredded and electronic copies should be erased electronically. For more information on HIPAA requirements please consult your organization's privacy officer.

If you have any questions regarding your responsibilities in data reporting to the Commission or about this issue, please contact Donna Bullen at (410) 764-3324.

Sincerely,

Ben Steffen
Deputy Director
Data Systems & Analysis

**Attachment A – Additional Maryland Long Term Care Survey Questions
For Chronic Facilities Only
Collection will begin January 1, 2006**

Beginning with the 2006 Maryland Long Term Care Survey, Chronic Care facilities will be required to complete the eight questions below. These questions are to be reported in aggregate form. The totals of each question must be the same and equal the combined numbers reported for Total Discharges plus Total Deaths found in Questions 21 and 22 of the 2006 MLTCS. You may wish to use this list to collect the data for Calendar Year 2006 in preparation for the annual survey that will be issued in 2007:

Please report the number of residents in your facility in the following categories:

a) Gender:

1. Male
2. Female
3. Unknown
4. Total (computed value)

b) Race:

1. White/Not Hispanic
2. Hispanic
3. African American/Not Hispanic
4. Asian/Pacific Islander
5. American Indian/Alaskan
6. Other/Unknown
7. Total (computed value)

c) Age:

1. 0-64 Years
2. 65-74 Years
3. 75-84 Years
4. 85-94 Years
5. 95 Years and older
6. Other/Unknown
7. Total (computed value)

d) Patient County of Residence:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 01 = Allegany | 02 = Anne Arundel |
| 03 = Baltimore County | 04 = Calvert |
| 05 = Caroline | 06 = Carroll |
| 07 = Cecil | 08 = Charles |
| 09 = Dorchester | 10 = Frederick |
| 11 = Garrett | 12 = Harford |
| 13 = Howard | 14 = Kent |
| 15 = Montgomery | 16 = Prince George's |
| 17 = Queen Anne's | 18 = St. Mary's |
| 19 = Somerset | 20 = Talbot |
| 21 = Washington | 22 = Wicomico |
| 23 = Worcester | 30 = Baltimore City |
| 88 = Other | 99 = Unknown |

e) Source of Admission:

1. Acute Care Hospital (Medical – Surgical unit)
2. Other/Unknown
3. Total (computed value)

f) Primary Payment Source on Admission:

1. Medicare
2. Maryland Medical Assistance
3. Private Insurance
4. Health Maintenance Organization
5. Other/Unknown
6. Total (computed value)

g) Discharge Destination:

1. Private Residence
2. Comprehensive Care Facility.
3. Acute Care Hospital (Medical – Surgical unit)
4. Deceased
5. Other/Unknown
6. Total (computed value)

h) Principal Diagnosis on Admission (See worksheet below):

1. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
2. Neoplasms
3. Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases, and Immunity Disorders
4. Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs
5. Mental Disorders
6. Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs
7. Diseases of the Circulatory System
8. Diseases of the Respiratory System
9. Diseases of the Digestive System
10. Diseases of the Genitourinary System
11. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue
12. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue
13. Congenital Anomalies
14. Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions
15. Injury and Poisoning
16. Other

Worksheet for Reporting the Principal Diagnosis Codes
Maryland Long Term Care Survey
Beginning January 1, 2006
For Chronic Care Facilities Only

Categories of Principal Diagnosis	ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes to be Reported (Only the first 3 digits)	Number of Residents During Calendar Year with a Principal Diagnosis Code in Group
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	001-139	
Neoplasms	140-239	
Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases, and Immunity Disorders	240-279	
Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs	280-289	
Mental Disorders	290-319	
Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	320-389	
Diseases of the Circulatory System	390-459	
Diseases of the Respiratory System	460-519	
Diseases of the Digestive System	520-576	
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	580-629	
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue	680-709	
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	710-739	
Congenital Anomalies	740-759	
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	780-799	
Injury and Poisoning	800--999	
Other	All Other ICD-9 Codes	

In a situation where the patient's Principal Diagnosis on admission is a v-code please report the most noteworthy ICD-9 code in the above table.